

# **REPRESENTATIVE MARSHA BLACKBURN**

7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, Tennessee

## **U.S. House of Representatives**

Marsha Blackburn was sent to the U.S. House of Representatives at the start of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress where she was one of only a few newly-elected congressmen selected to serve as an assistant whip on the majority whip team. Within her first few months in Washington, Blackburn was named a "freshman to watch" by *National Journal*, while *Roll Call*, the Capitol Hill newspaper, called her a "rising star." In 2004, a survey of senior Capitol Hill staff by *Washingtonian Magazine* declared Blackburn the Republican "top newcomer" in the House of Representatives.

At the start of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, Blackburn was selected by House leadership for a coveted seat on the exclusive House Energy & Commerce Committee. The committee is noted for its broad jurisdiction, and will play a key role in much of the legislative agenda in 2005. In the previous Congress, Blackburn served on the Judiciary, Education and the Workforce, and Government Reform Committees. She was the Vice-Chairman of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Efficiency and Financial Management where she targeted waste, fraud, and abuse in Federal government operations. Blackburn also served as the Government Reform Committee's member designee to the Joint Committee on Taxation in 2003.

In 2003, Blackburn helped lead the effort to pass tax relief for virtually all taxpayers, restore concurrent receipt for veterans, enact legislation to give small business employees greater health care access, provide our men and women in uniform an across the board pay raise, prohibit partial birth abortion, and reform the Department of Defense personnel system.

An advocate for reducing government spending, Blackburn has sponsored three bills to require across the board spending cuts in the Federal budget during the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. In recognition of her conservative voting record, *National Journal* rated Blackburn a "top House conservative" in 2004.

## **Tennessee**

In 1995, Blackburn was appointed Executive Director of the Tennessee Film, Entertainment, and Music Commission. Under her leadership the reformed commission both reduced its budget and broadened its mission to include interactive technology.

Blackburn was elected State Senator in 1998, becoming the first woman to represent Tennessee's 23<sup>rd</sup> Senate District. She served as minority whip in the 101<sup>st</sup> General Assembly and served on the General Welfare, Health and Human Services, Judiciary, and Transportation Committees.

While in the Tennessee Senate, Blackburn led a statewide grassroots campaign to defeat the proposed state income tax. Her frequent appearances on talk radio and positive mention in national publications like the Wall Street Journal made

her a recognized national anti-tax and government reform advocate. In addition to the income tax debate, while in the state senate Blackburn sponsored legislation to protect the Second Amendment, keep quality childcare affordable, and begin work to eliminate a loophole allowing illegal aliens to acquire valid Tennessee drivers licenses.

### **Education and Family**

A graduate of Mississippi State University and a small business owner, Blackburn has been actively involved in Tennessee grassroots politics and civic organizations for more than 25 years.

Blackburn was born on June 6, 1952. Marsha and Chuck Blackburn have been married for twenty-nine years. They have two children, Mary Morgan Ketchel, 26, and Chad Blackburn, 23.

### **Blackburn Achievements:**

Blackburn was selected to serve as an Assistant Majority Whip in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress

Blackburn is Vice-Chairman of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Efficiency and Financial Management

*National Journal* described Blackburn as a “freshman to watch” and a “top House conservative” in 2003 and 2004

Blackburn received *National Journal*’s highest conservative voting rank for any female member of Congress and placed tenth overall in the House

*Roll Call* named Blackburn one of five House Republican “rising stars” in 2003

Blackburn serves as Co-Chairman of the Congressional Songwriters Caucus she founded in 2003 to give Tennessee's community of songwriters a voice on Capitol Hill

Blackburn has received the 2004 “spirit of enterprise” award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Americans for Tax Reform called Blackburn a “taxpayer hero” in 2003

Military Officers Association of America of Middle Tennessee thanked Blackburn for pro-military service member voting record and concurrent receipt legislation efforts

The Small Business Survival Committee named Blackburn a “small business advocate” in 2003

Blackburn scored a perfect 100 in the American Shareholders Association 2003 ranking

The Family Research Council gave Blackburn the “true blue” award for the first half of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress

Blackburn praised for supporting Federal whistleblower protection by the Government Accountability Project

National Right to Life praised Blackburn for supporting the pro-senior Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act

The American Legion National Headquarters recognized Blackburn for voting to support increased Veterans Affairs medical care funding